

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1 - 9. (canceled).

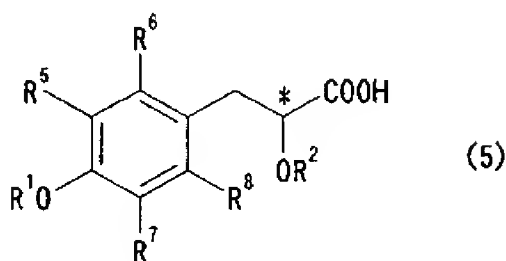
10. (previously presented): The process according to claim 14, wherein the optically active phenylpropionic acid of the formula (5) or a salt thereof obtained by the method according to claim 14 is crystallized from a solvent.

11. (original): The process according to claim 10, wherein the solvent used for the crystallization is a member selected from the group consisting of hydrocarbons, alcohols, ketones and water, and a mixture thereof.

12. (previously presented): The process according to claim 15, wherein the optically active 3-(4-hydroxyphenyl)propionic acid of the formula (6) or a salt thereof obtained by the method according to claim 15 is crystallized from a solvent.

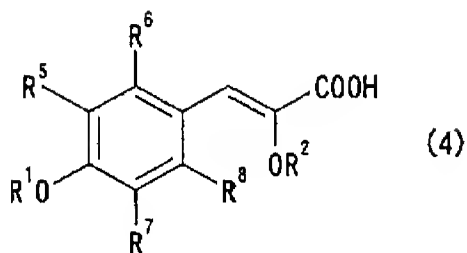
13. (original): The process according to claim 12, wherein the solvent used for the crystallization is a member selected from the group consisting of hydrocarbons, alcohols, ketones and water, and a mixture thereof.

14. (previously presented): A process for producing an optically active phenylpropionic acid of the formula (5):



wherein R^1 is a protective group; R^2 is an alkyl group; R^5 to R^8 are each a hydrogen atom; and the symbol $*$ is an chiral carbon atom, or a salt thereof,

which comprises subjecting a cinnamic acid of the formula (4):

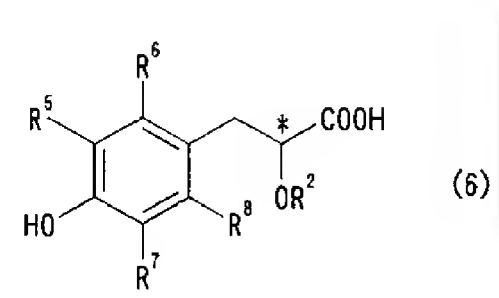


wherein R^1 , R^2 , and R^5 to R^8 are each the same as defined above, or a salt thereof,

to asymmetric hydrogenation,

wherein the asymmetric hydrogenation is carried out in the presence of a chiral catalyst which is a transition metal complex which is selected from the group consisting of $Ru_2Cl_4[(S)-H_8\text{-binap}]_2NEt_3$, $Ru_2Cl_4[(R)-H_8\text{-binap}]_2NEt_3$, $[RuCl(p\text{-cymene})((S)\text{-dm-segphos})]Cl$ and $[RuCl(p\text{-cymene})((R)\text{-dm-segphos})]Cl$.

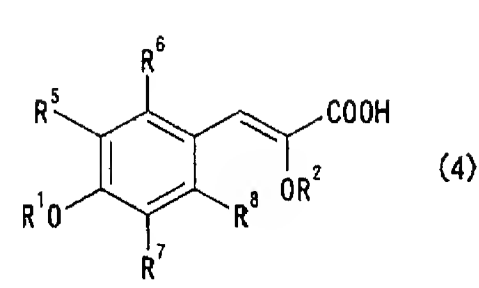
15. (previously presented): A process for producing an optically active 3-(4-hydroxyphenyl)propionic acid of the formula (6):



wherein R^2 is an alkyl group; R^5 to R^8 are each a hydrogen atom;

and the symbol * is a chiral carbon atom,

or a salt thereof, which comprises subjecting a cinnamic acid of the formula (4):



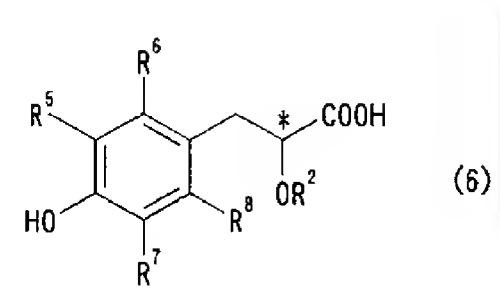
wherein R^1 is a protective group;

R^2 and R^5 to R^8 are each the same as defined above,

or a salt thereof, to asymmetric hydrogenation,

wherein the asymmetric hydrogenation is carried out in the presence of a chiral catalyst which is a transition metal complex which is selected from the group consisting of $Ru_2Cl_4[(S)\text{-}H_8\text{-binap}]_2NEt_3$, $Ru_2Cl_4[(R)\text{-}H_8\text{-binap}]_2NEt_3$, $[RuCl(p\text{-cymene})((S)\text{-dm-segphos})]Cl$ and $[RuCl(p\text{-cymene})((R)\text{-dm-segphos})]Cl$.

16. (previously presented) A process for producing an optically active 3-(4-hydroxyphenyl)propionic acid of the formula (6):

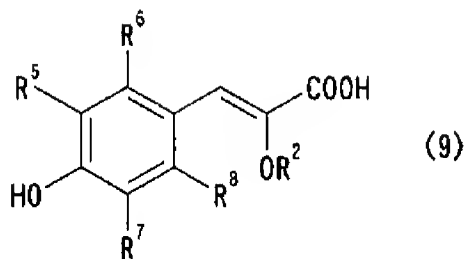


wherein R^2 is an alkyl group; R^5 to R^8 are each a hydrogen atom;

and the symbol * is a chiral carbon atom,

or a salt thereof,

which comprises subjecting a 4-hydroxycinnamic acid of the formula (9):

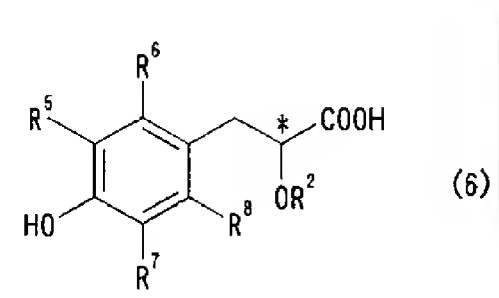


wherein R^2 and R^5 to R^8 are each the same as defined above,

or a salt thereof to asymmetric hydrogenation,

wherein the asymmetric hydrogenation is carried out in the presence of a chiral catalyst which is a transition metal complex which is selected from the group consisting of $\text{Ru}_2\text{Cl}_4[(\text{S})\text{-H}_8\text{-binap}]_2\text{NEt}_3$, $\text{Ru}_2\text{Cl}_4[(\text{R})\text{-H}_8\text{-binap}]_2\text{NEt}_3$, $[\text{RuCl}(\text{p-cymene})((\text{S})\text{-dm-segphos})]\text{Cl}$ and $[\text{RuCl}(\text{p-cymene})((\text{R})\text{-dm-segphos})]\text{Cl}$.

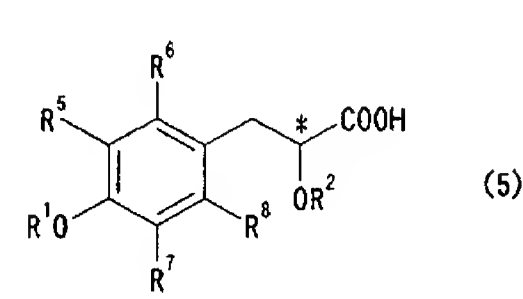
17. (previously presented) A process for producing an optically active 3-(4-hydroxyphenyl)propionic acid of the formula (6):



wherein R² is an alkyl group; R⁵ to R⁸ are each a hydrogen atom;

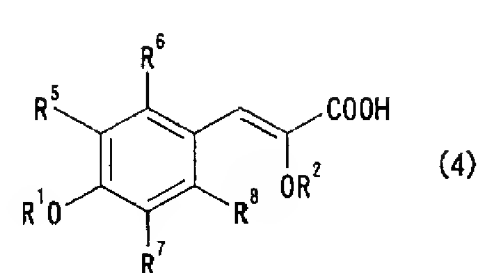
and the symbol * is a chiral carbon atom,

or a salt thereof, and an optically active phenylpropionic acid of the formula (5):



wherein R¹ is a protective group; and R², R⁵ to R⁸ and the symbol * are each the same as defined above,

or a salt thereof, which comprises subjecting a cinnamic acid of the formula (4):



wherein R¹, R², and R⁵ to R⁸ are each the same as defined above,

or a salt thereof, to asymmetric hydrogenation,

wherein the asymmetric hydrogenation is carried out in the presence of a chiral catalyst which is a transition metal complex which is selected from the group consisting of $\text{Ru}_2\text{Cl}_4[(\text{S})\text{-H}_8\text{-binap}]_2\text{NEt}_3$, $\text{Ru}_2\text{Cl}_4[(\text{R})\text{-H}_8\text{-binap}]_2\text{NEt}_3$, $[\text{RuCl}(\text{p-cymene})((\text{S})\text{-dm-segphos})]\text{Cl}$ and $[\text{RuCl}(\text{p-cymene})((\text{R})\text{-dm-segphos})]\text{Cl}$.

18. (canceled).

19. (previously presented): The process according to claim 16, wherein the optically active 3-(4-hydroxyphenyl)propionic acid of the formula (6) or a salt thereof obtained by the method according to claim 16 is crystallized from a solvent.

20. (previously presented): The process according to claim 19, wherein the solvent used for the crystallization is a member selected from the group consisting of hydrocarbons, alcohols, ketones and water, and a mixture thereof.

21. (previously presented): The process according to claim 17, wherein the optically active 3-(4-hydroxyphenyl)propionic acid of the formula (6) or a salt thereof and the optically active phenylpropionic acid of the formula (5) or a salt thereof obtained by the method according to claim 17 is crystallized from a solvent.

22. (previously presented): The process according to claim 21, wherein the solvent used for the crystallization is a member selected from the group consisting of hydrocarbons, alcohols, ketones and water, and a mixture thereof.

23. (New) A process according to claim 14, wherein the optically active phenylpropionic acid of the formula (5) is obtained at 58.0% ee or greater.